

***TOWN OF NEWFIELDS BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2009***

Present: Selectmen: Chairman Wes Moore, Rosanne Gilbert, and Michael Woodworth. Also present were Brian Knipstein, Tom Conner, Chief Reed, Lt. Gould, and Mike Klinetobe.

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 6:39pm by Michael Woodworth.

The trees blocking the sight line on Meadow Road at Route 85 were discussed. The property owner agreed to have the trees cut with the following conditions: She wants to keep the wood, protect the stone wall as much as possible, have the stumps removed, repair the stone wall, and remove the poison ivy. Brian will cut the wood into four foot lengths and leave them at the house, take the stumps out, and protect the stone wall as much as possible. The property owner will have to remove the poison ivy. Brian will be able to take care of this sometime in April or May.

Wes apologized to Brian Knipstein for his blunder at last week's Budget Hearing of not notifying him ahead of time of the budget cut to his department. Brian graciously accepted Wes's apology.

Paving was discussed and it was determined that the roads are behind in paving. Wes suggests waiting to pave all of the roads that need paving until 2010. The reasons for this would be a better price on paving if you pay 3 miles instead of 600 or 900 feet, a bond could be obtained for the cost (which would make the cost come out even or a little ahead), and the Town would be spending money to get ahead on paving.

Brian would like to keep a level budget and keep up with his paving schedule. There are price considerations to keep in mind – fuel costs have increased along with paving costs and salt. Brian is fighting for his budget because the roads need re-paving. He and his company do not receive any payment for paving – funds are paid directly to the paving company. A discussion took place on the various roads that need paving.

The Deliberative Session is coming up and someone can make a motion that paving be put back into the Highway Budget. The Selectmen would not object to this.

Rosanne said that the Town is very lucky to have Brian taking care of the roads. He does a fine job.

Tom Conner and Chief Reed attended the FEMA meeting in Exeter and received packets to apply for FEMA funds for the ice storm in December. FEMA declared emergency for

December 11 through December 23, 2008 and will pay a portion of overtime for Police Departments, shelter costs, the Highway Department (but not for snow removal), Fire Equipment (not pay). An inspector will come to Newfields to look over the damages. Federal FEMA funds will cover 75% of qualified expenses and the State FEMA Funds usually pay 12.5%.

Obama wants to stimulate the economic recovery – perhaps the Federal Government will cover costs such as building culverts and all reconstruction work. Brian will get more information from Jones and Beach on this program.

Mike Klinetobe met with the Selectmen about renting the Town Hall for 4 gospel meetings in February. Two ministers will attend the meetings and it is a Christian non-denominational group that meets on Sundays in Hooksett. If all goes well, they may continue the meetings for awhile. They expect 25 to 40 people and the public is welcome. The meetings will begin at 7:00pm. The Selectmen asked that he submit a rental application along with the appropriate fees. The rent will not be reduced as all other organizations or individuals pay the full rental fee.

The Selectmen asked Nancy to send out a notice 12/01/09 to remind all departments that invoices to be paid in 2009 must be submitted in 2009. Any invoices submitted after 12/31/09 will be paid in 2010.

Mileage reimbursements were discussed. Rosanne will speak with Chief Reed about his department delivering checks to the Town Treasurer.

Checks were signed

The blank application from Dragon Mosquito was not signed – it must be completed first.

A Land Use Change Tax was signed.

The report from Melanson, Heath & Company PC was tabled until a meeting can be set up with Don Doane, Sue McKinnon, and Nancy Spencer.

Cash Flow Projections were reviewed for the Newfields Elementary School and SAU 16.

The Book of Basic Financial Policies received from the Local Government Center will be kept on file.

A report from the Rockingham County Commissioners along with their 2009 budget was received. Both are available for viewing at the Town Office.

A letter from the Highway Safety Agency regarding financial assistance for towns was reviewed and was passed on to Road Agent.

A thank you letter from the Lamprey Health Care was reviewed.

The Local Government Center notified that Town that they have rescinded their 3% increase in dues for 2009.

Wes attended the Newfields School District Public Hearing on the Budget. The Hearing was very informative and all of the questions asked by the people attending were answered.

The Selectmen chose the 2008 Re-Assessment report to go into the Town Report.

Rosanne made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 13, 2009 Selectmen's meeting as revised. Michael seconded the motion which passed with all in favor.

Wes made a motion to accept the minutes of the January 13, 2009 Budget Hearing as amended. Michael seconded the motion and the motion passed with all in favor.

Michael made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:30pm. Rosanne seconded the motion and the motion passed with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy J. Spencer